



# KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## NEWS RELEASE

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## **KENTUCKY NAEP SCIENCE SCORES SIGNIFICANTLY ABOVE NATIONAL AVERAGES**

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(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – The results of the 2011 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in science show that Kentucky's 8th graders outperformed their peers when compared to the nation's results, the Kentucky Department of Education announced today.

Scale scores for Kentucky 8th graders in 2011 are significantly above the national average. The NAEP science grading scale ranges from 0 to 300.

### **KENTUCKY AND NATIONAL SCALE SCORES FOR NAEP SCIENCE**

<b>8TH-GRADE SCALE SCORES</b>		
	<b>KENTUCKY</b>	<b>NATION</b>
<b>2000</b>	150	148
<b>2005</b>	153	147
<b>2009</b>	156	149
<b>2011</b>	157	151

**NOTE:** Beginning with the 2009 science results, scores are based on new science frameworks, meaning that direct comparisons to prior years' overall scale scores are not recommended.

In the past, 4th graders also have been assessed in science through NAEP. However, the National Assessment Governing Board, which sets policy for NAEP, agreed to cancel the 2011 4th-grade science assessment in order to focus on statistical linking studies between NAEP and the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) in 8th-grade mathematics and science and the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) in 4th-grade reading.

See "KEY FINDINGS FOR 2011 NAEP SCIENCE GRADE 8" at the end of this news release for data highlights.

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**NAEP SCIENCE SCALE SCORES - TRENDS**  
(Earlier science results reflected here for reference only.)

	<b>KENTUCKY 8TH-GRADE SCALE SCORE</b>	<b>NATIONAL AVERAGE 8TH-GRADE SCALE SCORE</b>
2000	150	148
2005	153	147
2009	156	149
<b>2011</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>151</b>

**SCIENCE SCALE SCORES BY FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE MEAL ELIGIBILITY**

	<b>8TH-GRADE ELIGIBLE- KENTUCKY (NATION)</b>	<b>8TH-GRADE NOT ELIGIBLE - KENTUCKY (NATION)</b>
2000	135 (127)	159 (158)
2005	145 (130)	159 (158)
2009	147 (133)	165 (161)
<b>2011</b>	<b>148 (137)</b>	<b>167 (164)</b>

**SCIENCE SCALE SCORES BY GENDER**

	<b>8TH-GRADE MALE - KENTUCKY (NATION)</b>	<b>8TH-GRADE FEMALE - KENTUCKY (NATION)</b>
2000	153 (151)	146 (145)
2005	154 (149)	151 (145)
2009	159 (151)	154 (147)
<b>2011</b>	<b>158 (153)</b>	<b>155 (148)</b>

**SCIENCE SCALE SCORES BY RACE**

	<b>8TH-GRADE WHITE - KENTUCKY (NATION)</b>	<b>8TH-GRADE AFRICAN AMERICAN - KENTUCKY (NATION)</b>
2000	152 (159)	125 (120)
2005	155 (159)	130 (123)
2009	159 (161)	137 (125)
<b>2011</b>	<b>160 (163)</b>	<b>135 (128)</b>

NAEP is a project of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), reporting on the academic achievement of elementary and secondary students in the United States. For more than 30 years, NAEP has been the country's only nationally representative and continuing survey of students' educational achievement. Because the national NAEP samples were not designed to support the reporting of state-level results, state NAEP samples were introduced in 1990 to provide participating states reliable data concerning the achievement of their students.

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The assessment is authorized by Congress, directed by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) and developed by Educational Testing Service of Princeton, New Jersey. Westat, Inc. of Rockville, Maryland, conducts sample selection and data collection. NAEP protects the confidentiality of students, teachers and schools that participate by not reporting individual student, teacher, school or district data. NAEP provides results for major demographic groups, and states that meet NAEP reporting criteria are able to compare their results with both national results and the results of other states.

### KEY FINDINGS FOR 2011 NAEP SCIENCE GRADE 8

- In 2011, disaggregated scale scores show that, in all but one category, Kentucky students **outperformed** the nation. The only Kentucky group that did not have higher scores than the nation was 8th-grade white students, whose average scale score was 160, compared to the national average of 163 for the same group.
- In 2011, the average science score for 8th-grade students in Kentucky was 157. This was **higher** than that of the nation's public schools (151).
- The average score for students in Kentucky in 2011 (157) was **not significantly different** from that in 2009 (156).
- In 2011, the percentage of students in Kentucky who performed at or above *Proficient* was 34 percent. This was **greater** than that for the nation's public schools (31 percent).
- The percentage of students in Kentucky who performed at or above *Proficient* in 2011 (34 percent) was **not significantly different** from that in 2009 (34 percent).
- In 2011, the percentage of students in Kentucky who performed at or above *Basic* was 72 percent. This was **greater** than that for the nation's public schools (64 percent).
- The percentage of students in Kentucky who performed at or above *Basic* in 2011 (72 percent) was **not significantly different** from that in 2009 (71 percent).

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